

Amyris oblanceolata (Rutaceae), a New Species from Nicaragua

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ABSTRACT. *Amyris oblanceolata*, a new species from northwestern Nicaragua, is described, and its relationships to other Central American species with opposite, trifoliolate leaves are discussed.

The genus *Amyris* consists of approximately 40 species distributed in the West Indies and from Florida and Texas through Central America to Peru and Venezuela. They are unarmed trees or shrubs with the leaves opposite, or alternate, and 1–11-foliolate; the flowers small, generally perfect and actinomorphic with 3–5 petals and 6–10 free stamens; and the fruits one-seeded drupes. Species found in South America were revised by Gereau (1991). A new species of *Amyris* from Central America was encountered during preparation of a treatment of Rutaceae for the *Flora de Nicaragua* and is here described.

Amyris oblanceolata A. Pool, sp. nov. TYPE: Nicaragua. Depto. de Estelí: Estelí, elevation 1600 ft., 21 Feb. 1957 (buds and imm. fr), *J. B. Salas & B. W. Taylor* 2267 (holotype, EAP).

Frutex vel arbor parva. Folia opposita, trifoliolata, foliolis oblanceolatis vel ellipticis, apice acutis vel rotundatis, retusis, coriaceis. Inflorescentia multiflora, pseudoterminalis, paniculata, ramis pubescentibus, floribus sessilibus.

Shrub or small tree, 2–7 m tall, the young branches puberulent. Leaves opposite to subopposite, trifoliolate; leaflets oblanceolate to elliptic, acute to rounded at the apex, with retuse tip, cuneate at base, 5–9 cm long, 2–3.5 cm wide with terminal leaflet larger than laterals, entire, coriaceous, glabrous except midrib puberulent above, with numerous pellucid punctations, the veins reticulate, conspicuous and raised on both surfaces, lateral leaflets sessile or on petiolules to 2 mm, the petiolule of terminal leaflet 4–12 mm; petiole 1.5–3.5 cm, not winged, puberulent. Inflorescence many-flowered, pseudo-terminal, paniculate, the branches densely puberulent, the flowers sessile in dense clusters, the buds globose; calyx 4-lobed, the lobes triangular, acute at apex; petals 4, glabrous; stamens 7 or 8 in two series, the filaments glabrous; gynophore present; ovary with a few hairs at base.

Species of *Amyris* found in Central America south of Mexico with opposite or subopposite, trifoliolate (or

occasionally trifoliolate) leaves are: *A. oblanceolata*, *A. guatemalensis* Lundell, members of the *A. elemifera* species complex, and *A. brenesii* Standley.

Amyris oblanceolata is most similar to *A. guatemalensis* Lundell, known only from the type, a fruiting collection from Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. *Amyris guatemalensis* is similar to *A. oblanceolata* in having subcoriaceous leaflets, an unusual condition in this genus, and short pedicels. *Amyris guatemalensis* differs from *A. oblanceolata* in having leaves that are generally 5-foliolate with the lateral leaflets distinctly petiolulate and the tertiary veins neither raised nor conspicuous on the adaxial surface. The leaflets of *Amyris guatemalensis* are generally elliptic with acuminate apices but sometimes are (like those of the new species) oblanceolate with rounded and retuse apices.

Members of the *Amyris elemifera* species complex (including: *A. elemifera* L., *A. balsamifera* L., and *A. vestita* Lundell) differ from *A. oblanceolata* in having membranous to chartaceous leaflets and distinctly pedicellate flowers. In addition, their leaflets are generally suborbicular to lanceolate with acute to acuminate apices. The application of names and species circumscription within this group is discussed by Lundell (1960) and Gereau (1991).

Amyris brenesii Standley (including *A. costaricensis* Standley), endemic to Costa Rica, is easily distinguished from other species of *Amyris* from Central America by its large lateral leaflets, 14–26 cm long, and its long petioles, 9–24 cm long.

Paratypes. NICARAGUA. **Jinotega:** Sierra W of Jinotega, along road to Cerro de la Cruz, elevation 1050–1350 m, chiefly in dense wet mixed low forest, 27 June 1947 (sterile), *P. C. Standley* 10177 (EAP). **Matagalpa:** El Eden, camino viejo a Jinotega, 12°58'N, 85°58'W, elevation 856 m, 1 Feb. 1984 (buds), *P. P. Moreno* 22909 (HNMN, MO).

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Literature Cited

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